

FAMILY FUN IN BURNABY

Memories of childhood vacations are in the making in Burnaby. There's something for every child (and their parents too!) in this family-friendly city. Travel back in time, take a ride on a steam train, paddle a boat or explore authentic wilderness areas... and so much more. Burnaby offers fun and excitement for the whole family!

Barnet Marine Park

Grab a blanket, some beach towels, picnic supplies and a shovel – as Barnet Marine Park is the perfect place for some wholesome family fun. Grown-ups will enjoy the scenic views of the spectacular Burrard Inlet, while kids of all ages can make sandcastles and jump the waves from the passing freighters that skilfully navigate the choppy waters. Of course, you can also take a swim in the ocean, explore the shoreline or just bask in the sun. Picnic tables and barbeques are scattered under shady trees and a concession stand is open during summer. The park still shows remnants of its early days as a mill town at the turn of the century. In fact, the remains of the mill's scrap burner juts out into the water... resembling a small castle.

Burnaby Lake Regional Park

Burnaby Lake Regional Park is a stunning wildlife sanctuary. The lake itself was created by a glacier 12,000 years ago, and has become an ideal spot for birdwatchers of all ages. There's even a viewing tower providing a bird's eye view for spotting wildlife!

Children will especially enjoy taking a canoe around the lake to get a close-up view of busy beavers, diving ducks and turtles feeding in the marsh. The park's south shore features a Wildlife Rescue facility that houses a wildlife habitat garden – while the north shore includes Warner Loat Park and the Nature House, which is open on summer weekends and offers kid-friendly interpretive nature classes and displays.

Burnaby Mountain Park

Here, you can throw a Frisbee, fly a kite, or just run around – as the green hillside of Burnaby Mountain Park provides many opportunities for children's activities. Oh, and there's also a playground tucked into the upper hillside of the park for extra fun and games!

Burnaby Village Museum

Experience the past at the “historic” Burnaby Village Museum. As part of scenic Deer Lake Park, this four-hectare open-air museum features a recreated and restored village and farm that takes you back to the 1920s. Kids of all ages will be fascinated with the shops and homes mimicking life in the early 1900s – along with the friendly, period-costumed villagers welcoming you into their homes and businesses at every turn. Visit the Chinese herbalist, and the blacksmith's shop, take a tour on the BC Electric Railway tram, enjoy a scoop at the old-fashioned ice cream parlour, or take a ride on the vintage 1925 carousel – fun for the young (and young at heart)!

6501 Deer Lake Avenue; www.burnabyvillagemuseum.ca

Central Park

Located just minutes from Metrotown Mall, this century-old park is reminiscent of the magnificent rainforests that once dominated North America's west coast. With its two large ponds, children of all ages will enjoy seeing and feeding the many geese and ducks. The park also includes the award-winning Variety Club Playground – an integrated play area offering fun and challenges for kids of all ages and abilities. As an urban forest of colossal Douglas fir, western hemlock, poplar and maple, this 222-acre (90 hectare) wooded oasis is also a popular place for tennis, jogging, pitch-and-putt, cycling, picnicking, or just wandering around.

Confederation Park

Confederation Park offers fun for the whole family, including an array of outdoor activities – such as lawn bowling, bocce ball, tennis, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, skateboarding and track running. Kids (and kids at heart!) will especially enjoy a ride on the model steam railway (operating on summer weekends), and the summertime spray pool offers hours of fun on a hot summer's day. For something off the beaten path, visit the north side of the park – a beautiful, untouched wilderness area. Explore the 1.3 kilometre Penzance Trail, which meanders through dense forest and offers a view of the scenic Burrard Inlet. Then, round out your day with a picnic and feast among the trees. With so many possibilities, families can easily spend all day at Confederation Park.

Deer Lake Boat Rentals

For some fun on the water, check out Deer Lake Boat Rentals – a family-friendly business that rents canoes, kayaks, pedal boats and rowboats on Deer Lake. Since Deer Lake is home to some of the region's most extraordinary wildlife, you might even see some blue herons, beavers, turtles, Canadian geese, ducks, rainbow trout or eagles while paddling around this urban wilderness.

www.deerlakeboatrentals.com